

Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development

OKLAHOMA WORKFORCE YOUTH COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 6, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, 900 N. Portland Ave., Oklahoma City, OK

Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Chuck Mills welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending. Chuck asked everyone to introduce themselves since there were some new Youth Council members in attendance. He gave a brief overview of the Youth Council and said that education was the key to developing a talent pipeline for workforce. They are slowly educating businesses as to why they need to be at the table too because they are the ones who hire workers right out of high school, Career Tech or college. Now the Governor is promoting this idea through Oklahoma Works.

Chuck said that we may wonder where the Youth Council fits in since we were previously working on Teacher Career Development and that's been derailed somewhat. There's a need to show the relevance of what students learn and how it fits into a career. STEM subjects are needed in school because students are not prepared for the working world. Chuck thinks that we can change a generation and believes that the Youth Council is not wasting its time. He said that never before have we had a Governor that has supported our work. Now she is taking charge – for example Oklahoma Works – and we need to take advantage of this time right now.

Minutes

Ben Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2014 meeting. Jeff Downs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

New GCWED Direction (Oklahoma Works)

Jeane Burruss gave an update on Oklahoma Works and explained that there will be Key Economic Networks (KENs) formed in different areas of the state (which may or may not line up with the WIB areas). The KENs will be business-led and will have five champions per KEN. On a local level, they will work with regional economic development organizations, businesses, local Chambers of Commerce and Workforce Investment Boards, and other workforce groups and professionals to determine the needs of each region in order to bring wealth and prosperity to a particular region/area in the state. Katie Altshuler will be the key person for Oklahoma Works and will be working with the areas on this project.

The Governor named Natalie Shirley the new Secretary of Education and Workforce Development. The Governor wants more blending between education and workforce so this should be a good fit since Natalie is president of OSU-OKC.

Due to the appointment of the new secretary, Workforce is now reporting to Secretary Shirley and the Workforce Solutions division at the Department of Commerce will move its offices to the campus of OSU-OKC to support the Secretary.

Jeane reported that the WIOA goes into effect on July 1, 2015, and that all of the core partners are on board and at the same table. WIOA will be engaging the youth with more focus on out of school youth.

Business/Education Advisory Council

Chuck Mills reported that he was a representative on the Business/Education Advisory Council. Superintendent Joy Hofmeister is working on improving education and sent out a survey to get feedback on what people think of education in Oklahoma. Chuck said some of the issues in education are better pay for teachers, testing, and A-F grading of schools. Sandy Garrett also serves on the advisory committee.

Oklahoma Education and Industry Partnership

Ben Robinson showed a PowerPoint and gave an update on the OEIP event in July at Rose State College. The event is scheduled for the week of July 27 and will feature different tours such as the Mike Monroney FAA Center-CAMI and Tinker AFB. The purpose of OEIP is to expose 100 Oklahoma 5-12 grade STEM teachers and counselors to three (aerospace/defense, energy and agriculture/bioscience) of the five wealth producing industrial sectors by conducting a 3 day series of workshops, presentations, field trips, networking and discussion events. All of the slots for the teachers are filled and there is a standby list for a total of 130 teachers.

The OEIP is a partnership between educators, counselors, administrators, parents, students, industry leaders, government policy makers and members of the economic development community which focuses on:

- providing relevance and rigor to STEM education/training and workforce development
- exposing Oklahoma STEM teachers to high value careers in Oklahoma
- motivating students to develop and maintain a career pathway
- providing professional development for Oklahoma educators

Other

Jeff Downs gave an update on his new job and what they are doing regarding STEM. He is now the Director of STEM at Think Through Math, a company out of Pittsburg. Think Through Math is the only statewide STEM mathematic program in Oklahoma that is serving 59,000 kids. The educational math software is for grades 3-9 to get kids algebra ready by the 8th grade. Students are connected to a teacher online 365 days a year. Jeff was brought in to develop a STEM field to it – a relevancy piece to help kids meet the challenge. Every single student in Texas is on this program. He stated that he would like to continue on the Youth Council and stay engaged with it. The company is very engaged with teachers in the state. He said that the state has a contract for 48,000 seats – mainly for remediation.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Announcements

Chuck reminded everyone that the Governor's Council will meet at 10:00 a.m. on April 24 in Pryor at the Mid America Industrial Park, Expo Center, for a meeting and a tour.

Nanette Robertson, Eastern WIB, announced that the Northeast Oklahoma Regional Alliance (NORA) will have an Education Summit next week in Tahlequah, OK.

Next Meeting

The next Youth Council meeting will be announced at a later date.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Emrich